

Message Text

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42

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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (O M I S S I O N P A R A 1)

E. O. 11652, DECONTROLLED FOLLOWING DECEMBER 20, 1973.

TAGS: EGEN, CO

SUBJECT: COFFEE

REFS: A) STATE 118844, B) STATE 119509

1. DURING THE CALL BY COLOMBIAN MINISTER OF
FINANCE ECHAVARRIA ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SZABO JUNE 15 (REF. A), COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR BOTERO
RAISED THE SUBJECT OF COFFEE. BOTERO SAID THAT
HE HAD RAISED WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ
SOME MONTHS AGO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ICO- SPONSORED
STUDY ON THE FUTURE OF COFFEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
SCENE, TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTE.
HE SAID HE HAD SINCE HEARD THAT WHEN THIS WAS
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RAISED BY THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATE IN THE ICO BOARD MEETING, THE U. S. OPPOSED SUCH A STUDY.

2. COMMENT: BOTH GOMEZ JARAMILLO AND BOTERO HAD MENTIONED THE MATTER TO KATZ AND AT NO TIME WAS THE IDEA REJECTED. WHEN THE MATTER WAS RAISED BEFORE THE ICO BOARD BY THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATE (REF. B), THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES. SEVERAL DELEGATES SAID THAT SUCH A STUDY SEEMS TO BE A GOOD

IDEA BUT THAT THEY WERE UNINSTRUCTED AND THAT THE MATTER NEEDED FURTHER STUDY. THE BELGIAN DELEGATE RECOMMENDED THAT THE ICO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WRITE BROOKINGS CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A STUDY AS REPORTED REF. B) AND THAT IT BE FURTHER CONSIDERED AT THE SEPTEMBER 4-5 BOARD MEETING. THE UK DELEGATE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION. THE U. S. DELEGATE DID NOT SPEAK. THE U. S. DELEGATE DID DISCUSS THE STUDY PROPOSAL WITH THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATE, JORGE RAMIREZ, BEFORE THE BOARD MEETING AND ASKED WHO WOULD PAY FOR SUCH A STUDY. RAMIREZ SAID THAT THE ICO WOULD PROBABLY BE THE APPROPRIATE BODY TO FINANCE IT. THE U. S. DELEGATE NEITHER SUPPORTED NOR OPPOSED THIS IDEA, SAYING ONLY THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS MATTER. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE PASSED TO AMBASSADOR BOTERO. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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